

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 01494 131342Z

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6077

S E C R E T BRUSSELS 01494

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP PFOR CG BE

SUBJECT: VISIT OF ZAIRE'S FOREIGN MINISTER TO BRUSSELS

REF: (A) SECTO 3011 (B) SECTO 3012

1. THIS MORNING I DELIVERED THE SECRETARY'S LETTER TO FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE. VAN ELSLANDE SAID HE WOULD RECEIVE NGUZA IN BRUSSELS NEXT WEEK AND WOULD OF COURSE LISTEN CAREFULLY AND SYMPATHETICALLY TO WHAT NGUZA HAS TO SAY. I ALSO DELIVERED A COPY OF THE SECRETARY'S LETTER TO DAVIGNON. HE MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. THE FRENCH SAY THEY ARE PLANNING TO RECOGNIZE MPLA. BELGIUM IS TRYING TO PERSUADE THEM NOT TO DO SO. DAVIGNON DOUBTED THAT FRENCH COULD BE RESTRAINED. HE SAID THAT IF FRANCE RECOGNIZES THE MPLA SWEDEN, FINLAND, AND OTHERS PROBABLY WOULD FOLLOW SUIT.

B. DAVIGNON FEELS THAT EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN ZAIRIAN ECONOMY ARE ESSENTIAL IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE POSSIBLE POLITICAL REPRESSION IN ZAIRE OF THE ANGOLAN AFFAIR. BELGIUM IS IN THE PROCESS NOW OF DEVELOPING A PROGRAM TO TIE IN WITH THE IMF EFFORT TO BOLSTER THE ZAIRIAN ECONOMY. DAVIGNON ENVISAGED THAT BELGIUM WOULD HAVE SOME PROPOSALS TO MAKE TO NGUZA WHEN HE COMES TO BRUSSELS NEXT WEEK. DAVIGNON NOTED THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT THAT THE US IS LOOKING CAREFULLY INTO WAYS TO BOLSTER THEIR FRIENDS IN AFRICA AND EXPRESSED INTEREST IN KNOWING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHAT THE US PLANS TO DO.

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C. DAVIGNON CONSIDERED IT UNLIKELY THAT THE MPLA WOULD

EMBARK ON A MILITARY ADVENTURE ON THE BORDER OF ZAIRE.
HE DOBUTED THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD ALLOW THE STAKES TO
BE RAISED THAT MUCH. DAVIGNON SAID THAT NEVERTHELESS MOBUTU
WAS SHOWING SOME SIGNS OF NERCOUSNESS ABOUT A
POSSIBLE MILITARY THREAT TO ZAIRE. DAVIGNON FEARED
THAT MOBUTU MIGHT WANT TO USE SCARCE RESOURCES FOR
MILITARY EQUIPMENT. DAVIGNON THOUGHT THAT IT WAS
IMPERATIVE TO PERSUADE MOBUTU THAT THIS WAS NEITHER
NECESSARY NOR DESIRABLE.
D. DAVIGNON SAID HE WOULD INSTURCT HIS COLLEAGUES TO
INFORM THE EMBASSY ABOUT THE DETAILS OF PROPOSALS THE
BELGIANS WOULD MAKE TO NGUZA.

2. PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS WAS UNAVAILABLE TODAY. THE
SECRETARY'S LETTER WAS HAND-CARRIED TO HIS OFFICE. WE
ARE INFORMED THAT TINDEMANS WILL RECEIVE NGUZA.
RENNER

SECRET

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